

Texas Department of InsuranceState Fire Marshal's Office

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May 26, 2015

TO: CITY OFFICIALS, FIRE DEPARTMENTS & FIRE DISTRICT OFFICIALS

RE: ISO Community Surveys

The Insurance Services Office (ISO) has revised its Fire Suppression Rating Schedule (FSRS). The revised schedule continues to evaluate the three primary categories of fire suppression: fire department, emergency communications, and water supply. In addition, it now includes a new community risk reduction section that recognizes community efforts to reduce losses through fire prevention code adoption and enforcement, public fire safety education, and fire investigation.

ISO collects information on municipal fire protection capabilities in communities through surveys and analyzes the relevant data using the FSRS. ISO then assigns a Public Protection Classification from 1 to 10 with Class 1 indicating superior property fire protection and Class 10 indicating the area's fire suppression program doesn't meet the minimum criteria to be rated. Insurers use the Public Protection Classifications in rating residential and commercial property insurance coverage.

If an ISO representative has contacted your community to conduct a survey, allow them to come to your community to conduct it. The State Fire Marshal's Office encourages communities in Texas and ISO to work together to update fire protection information at least every 10 years. If ISO has not surveyed your community's fire district or if it has been more than 10 years since the last survey, please contact ISO as soon as possible to arrange a survey. You may also request a survey anytime your community has made enough improvements that could potentially result in a better classification. Up to date surveys on communities' fire suppression capabilities provide information that is more accurate for insurers to use in pricing property insurance coverage.

Please update ISO on any changes in your fire district by submitting information on changes, including annexations, to ISO, or to the Texas Department of Insurance – State Fire Marshal's Office, as quickly as possible after a change or annexation occurs. In addition to annexations, information about new fire stations, added or removed fire hydrants, and street name changes will help ensure that Location (ISO's Geographical Underwriting System) includes accurate information for specific property affected by the reported change.

Below is contact information for requesting a survey, and for mailing information regarding changes:

Community Mitigation Services Insurance Services Office Westech 360 Bldg II Ste 2110 Austin, Texas 78759 1 800 444-4554 Option 2 MC 112 FM Jesse James Williams State Fire Marshal's Office P.O. Box 149221 Austin Texas 78714-9221 City Officials, Fire Departments, and Fire District Officials May 20, 2014 Page 2

Electronic updates may be emailed: ISO_Texas@iso.com and jesse.williams@tdi.texas.gov

Questions regarding this letter may be directed to Jesse Williams, PPC Oversight Officer, (512) 676-6784.

Sincerely,

Jesse James Williams Deputy State Fire Marshal PPC Oversight Officer

Jesse William